

Name: **Muddy WY-030-26N88W3-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☒ X ☐ Yes ☐ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): Ferris Mountains Inventory WY-030-407

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wilderness Review Serial No. 66700

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): High Desert District/Rawlins Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

This unit consists of approximately 43,500 acres southeast of Muddy Gap. The area is rugged, slopes are very steep, rock outcrops of limestone and granite are found throughout the area. It appears to meet the criteria set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act for wilderness areas.

Inventory Source: M:\gis_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979.shp

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Ferris Mountains Inventory WY-030-407	Yes (43,500 acres)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Muddy WY-030-26N88W3-2012** Acreage 9,264.52

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the south and the east by Dorr Meadow Rd., a Class 4 undivided aggregate road, maintained by the BLM. The unit is bound on the north by private and state land and a Class 4, 4WD road that has been graded. The unit is bound on the east by private land and a Class 5, 4WD Road which was formerly graded. The unit is bound on the west by a pipeline right-of-way.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Muddy area under consideration is 9,264.52 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t26n	r88w	27	t26n	r88w	11
t26n	r88w	28	t26n	r88w	10
t26n	r88w	29	t26n	r88w	9
t26n	r88w	24	t26n	r88w	8
t26n	r88w	23	t26n	r88w	7
t26n	r88w	22	t26n	r87w	6
t26n	r88w	21	t26n	r88w	1
t26n	r88w	20	t26n	r88w	2
t26n	r88w	13	t26n	r88w	3
t26n	r88w	14	t26n	r88w	4
t26n	r88w	15	t26n	r88w	5
t26n	r88w	16	t27n	r87w	31
t26n	r88w	17	t27n	r88w	36
t26n	r88w	18	t27n	r88w	35
t26n	r88w	12	t27n	r88w	34

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by the Ferris Mountains as well as Muddy, Cottonwood, and Willow Creeks. Elevation ranges from

8,000 feet on the Ferris Mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6,800 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 38.89 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 3, and 5-8. When hiking across the Muddy Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains one oil and gas well throughout the Muddy Unit. When examining the status of this oil and gas well, it was determined that this well was permanently abandoned in 1956. This well has been fully reclaimed and was not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Muddy Unit also contains one man-made reservoir (see location in unit map). When the casual observer encounters this man-made borrow pit and impounded reservoir, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at the reservoir, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the one reservoir, two springs, and 14.18 miles of fence, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Muddy Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of

wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Muddy WY-030-26N88W3-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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